

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated September 10, 2003, claims 1-15 are noted as pending. Claims 1-4, 6-9, and 11-14 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuszmaul et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,390,298 (Kuszmaul). Claims 5, 10, and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuszmaul.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a)

Kuszmaul discloses in Figure 7a message packet that includes a message type field 66 and a packet type field 65. However, Kuszmaul does not disclose a "packet header including a format field to indicate the length of the packet header and to further specify whether the packet is to include data, a subset of a type field to indicate a message request transaction, and a message group sub-field separate from the format field and separate from the subset of the type field to indicate one of a plurality of message groups" (amended claim 1, emphasis added).

The comments above in connection with claim 1 are also applicable to independent claims 6 and 11. For these reasons, claims 1-15 are not anticipated by nor unpatentable over Okada.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-15 are distinguished over the cited art and are in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1-15 is respectfully requested.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP



John Patrick Ward
Reg. No. 40,216

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12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1030
(408) 720-8598